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Sixty Years of Trade Progress:
A Review of Canada's External Trade,
1867-1927

SEVENTY YEARS OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER


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SIXTY YEARS OF TRADE PROGRESS

A REVIEW OF CANADA'S EXTERNAL TRADE

1867 - 1927



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OTTAWA

1927

SIXTY YEARS OF TRADE PROGRESS

	<u>1868</u>	<u>1900</u>	<u>1927</u>
	\$	\$	\$
Total Trade...	119,792,000	355,889,000	2,298,466,000
Total Imports.	67,090,000	172,652,000	1,030,893,000
Total Exports.	52,702,000	183,237,000	1,267,573,000

As Canada this year celebrates the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation it is fitting to point out the more important facts of trade progress, 1867 to 1927. During the sixty years since Confederation, an expansion and development has taken place that has not been surpassed by many of the oldest and largest countries. From an isolated community, Canada has become a nation trading with practically every country of the world. In volume of trade she today ranks fifth among the commercial nations, being exceeded only by the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and France, while in trade per capita she occupies second place, being exceeded only by New Zealand. In respect to favourable trade balance (calendar year 1926) she occupied third place, the United States being in first place and British India second, while her favourable trade balance per capita, amounting to \$29.34, was the largest in the world.

TOTAL TRADE: Canada's total trade with all countries for

the fiscal year 1927, amounting to \$2,298,465,647, was about twenty times what it was at Confederation, viz: \$119,791,879; at the ushering in of the twentieth century it was only about three times as great, the total trade in 1900 amounting to but \$355,889,231. From Confederation to 1900 Canada's trade increased only \$236,097,352 or 197 per cent, while from 1900 to 1927 it increased \$1,942,576,416 or 546 per cent.

The total trade with the United Kingdom in 1868 was \$55,523,133 and in 1927 it was \$611,963,386, or eleven times as great as at Confederation, whereas in 1900 it amounted to \$152,016,009, being only about three times that of 1868. From 1868 to 1900 the total trade with the United Kingdom increased \$96,492,876 or 174 per cent, while from 1900 to 1927 the increase was \$459,947,377 or 303 per cent.

Canada's trade with the United States from Confederation to 1927 increased from \$48,009,700 to \$1,167,039,699 or 24 times, while the total in 1900, amounting to \$162,187,822, was only a trifle more than three times as great as in 1868. From 1868 to 1900 Canada's trade with the United States increased \$114,178,122 or 238 per cent, while from 1900 to 1927 the increase was \$1,004,851,877 or 619 per cent.

IMPORT TRADE: From 1868 to 1927 total imports from all countries increased from \$67,090,159 to \$1,030,892,505 or about fifteen times, while at the opening of the present century the imports were \$172,651,676, being only two and one-half times what they were in 1868. The total increase in imports from Confederation to 1900 was \$105,561,517 or 157 per cent, while from 1900 to 1927 it amounted to \$858,240,829 or 497 per cent.

Imports from the United Kingdom from Confederation to 1927 increased from \$37,617,325 to \$163,941,052, being about four and one-third times greater than in 1868. In 1900 the imports amounted to \$44,280,041. From 1868 to 1900 imports from the United Kingdom increased \$6,662,716 or 18 per cent, and from 1900 to 1927 they increased \$119,661,011 or 270 per cent.

Canada's imports from the United States were: 1868, \$22,660,132; 1900, \$102,224,917; and 1927, \$687,707,719. From 1868 to 1927 they increased thirty times, and from 1868 to 1900, four and one-half times. From 1868 to 1900 imports from the United States increased \$79,564,785 or 351 per cent and from 1900 to 1927, \$585,482,802, or 572 per cent.

Origin of Imports: In 1868, 90 per cent of Canada's imports was supplied by the United Kingdom and the United States, the proportion from the United Kingdom being 56.1 per cent, and the United States 33.8 per cent. In 1900 the United Kingdom and the United States supplied Canada with 84.9 per cent of her total imports, the proportion from the United Kingdom being 25.7 per cent, and from the United States 59.2 per cent, while in 1927, 83 per cent of Canada's total imports came from the United Kingdom and the United States, the proportion from the United Kingdom falling to 15.9 per cent,

and from the United States rising to 66.7 per cent. From 1868 to 1927 the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom fell from 56.1 to 15.9 per cent, while the percentage from the United States rose from 33.8 to 66.7.

There has been a gradual growth in the percentage of imports from countries other than the United Kingdom and the United States, the proportion in 1868 amounting to 10.1 per cent; in 1900 to 15.1 per cent; and in 1927 to 17.4 per cent. In 1868 the 10.1 per cent represented an import value of only \$6,813,000; in 1900 the value was \$26,146,000; and in 1927, \$179,300,000. Of this amount, Europe, except the United Kingdom, supplied \$78,100,000; North America, except the United States, \$34,700,000; South America, \$20,000,000; Asia \$32,000,000; Oceania \$12,500,000; and Africa \$2,000,000. In 1868 Canada drew supplies from a very limited number of countries; now the list of countries numbers more than 100, -British countries over 30, and foreign countries over 70.

Imports of Raw Materials: The constantly increasing imports into Canada from year to year of raw and semi-manufactured materials reflects the ever-increasing volume and variety in manufacturing processes in the Dominion. The following statistics of imports of materials for Canadian industries for the years 1880, 1900 and 1927 demonstrate the expansion of Canadian manufacturing industries since 1880.

Commodity	1880	1900	1927
Bituminous coal.....Ton	457,049	2,769,938	13,079,418
Cocoa, raw.....Lb.	96,983	779,050	13,766,700
Cotton, raw.....Lb.	13,237,168	54,912,849	135,796,625
Furs, unmanufactured \$	235,643	1,240,589	13,235,100
Hides, raw.....\$	1,752,426	4,214,412	9,057,183
Lumber, sawn or dressed on one side only.....M ft.	4,421	99,711	171,714
Manila and sisal grass.....Lb.	56,700	-	51,980,700
Petroleum, crude...Gal. (1895)	86	334,704	693,835,430
Rubber, raw.....Lb.	264,838	3,002,576	50,224,614
Silk, raw.....Lb.	12,928	69,832	679,923
Sugar, raw.....Lb.	87,094,176	267,623,607	1,129,558,900
Sulphur.....Lb.	1,775,489	21,128,656	435,698,300
Tin blocks, ingots, etc.....Lb.	1,332,000	2,244,100	5,085,800
Tinned plates.....Lb.	9,795,900	50,210,800	143,255,800
Wool, raw.....Lb.	7,870,118	8,054,699	16,423,421

EXPORT TRADE: Canada's export trade shows a greater expansion than her import trade. Total exports of domestic produce to all countries from 1868 to 1927 increased from \$48,504,899 to \$1,252,157,506, or about 26 times, while in 1900 the exports, amounting to \$168,972,301, were only about three and one-half times greater than in 1868. From Confederation to 1900 domestic exports increased \$120,467,402 or 248 per cent, while from 1900 to 1927 they increased \$1,083,185,205 or 641 per cent.

The exports of domestic produce to the United Kingdom were: 1868, \$17,905,808; 1900, \$96,562,875; and in 1927, \$446,876,101. The exports in 1927 were 25 times greater than in 1868, but they were only five and one-half times greater in 1900 than 1868. From 1868 to 1900 the domestic exports to the United Kingdom increased \$78,657,067 or 439 per cent, and from 1900 to 1927, \$350,313,226 or 363 per cent.

Canada's domestic exports to the United States were: 1868, \$25,349,568; 1900, \$57,996,488; and in 1927, \$466,419,539. From 1868 to 1927 exports to the United States increased eighteen times and from 1868 to 1900 two and one-third times. From Confederation to 1900 exports to the United States increased \$32,646,920 or 127 per cent, and from 1900 to 1927, \$408,423,051 or 704 per cent.

Destination of Exports: In 1868 the exports to the United Kingdom and the United States combined were 89.2 per cent of the total exports of domestic produce, the proportion for the United Kingdom being 36.9 per cent, and the United States 52.3 per cent. In 1900 similar exports to the United Kingdom and the United States were 91.3 per cent, the proportion for the United Kingdom being 57.1 per cent, and the United States 34.2 per cent, while for the year 1927 the domestic exports of Canada to the United Kingdom and the United States were 72.9 per cent; the proportion for the United Kingdom being 35.7 per cent, and the United States 37.2 per cent. From 1868 to 1927 Canada's domestic exports to the United Kingdom fell from 36.9 per cent to 35.7 per cent, while similar exports to the United States fell from 52.3 per cent to 37.2

per cent. The proportion of Canada's domestic exports to "Other Countries" than the United Kingdom and the United States, in 1868 was 10.8 per cent; in 1900 it had dropped to 8.7 per cent, but by 1927 it had risen to 27.1 per cent. This increase ^{was} due to a decline in the proportion exported to the United States. At Confederation the proportion exported to Other Countries, being 10.8 per cent of Canada's total domestic exports, represented an export value of \$5,249,000; in 1900 the proportion of 8.7 per cent represented a value of \$14,413,000, while in 1927 the proportion of 27.1 per cent represented a value of \$338,900,000. The increase in Canadian exports to "Other Countries" from 1868 to 1900 was \$9,164,000, or 174 per cent; while from 1900 to 1927 the increase was \$324,487,000 or 2251 per cent. During the year 1927 the exports to "Other Countries" amounting to \$338,900,000, was distributed by Continents as follows: Europe, except United Kingdom, \$155,900,000; North America, except United States, \$39,800,000; South America, \$33,000,000; Asia, \$63,500,000; Oceania, \$33,200,000; and Africa, \$13,500,000. While in 1868 Canadian products reached a very limited number of countries, today they find their way into every country of the world. Canada today sells to more than 113 countries; British Countries buying goods from Canada number over 30, and foreign countries over 80.

The statistics in the following table, for the years 1868, 1900 and 1927, arranged in order of importance of the articles in the latter year, give the story in its main details.

(See Table on next Page)

Commodity	1868	1900	1927
Wheat.....	3,648,000	11,995,000	353,095,000
Paper.....	(1890) 122	30,000	123,223,000
Wheat flour.....	(1869) 1,949,000	3,105,000	68,720,000
Planks and boards....	10,876,000	22,016,000	59,795,000
Wood pulp.....	(1890) 168,000	1,816,000	49,888,000
Fish.....	3,246,000	10,563,000	34,499,000
Automobiles.....	-	(1906) 63,000	31,751,000
Meats.....	1,229,000	13,616,000	29,409,000
Barley.....	3,187,000	1,010,000	25,875,000
Cheese.....	(1869) 550,000	19,856,000	24,956,000
Raw furs.....	434,000	2,265,000	20,285,000
Whiskey.....	5,000	397,000	18,713,000
Rubber tires.....	-	(1917) 727,000	18,564,000
Farm implements.....	(1878) 86,000	1,692,000	17,413,000
Pulpwood.....	(1890) 80,000	903,000	15,400,000
Sugar, refined.....	(1879) 1,400	2,000	15,116,000
Copper ore and blister copper.....	394,000	1,387,000	13,854,000
Lead.....	3,000	689,000	13,464,000
Silver.....	(1871) 595,000	1,354,000	12,976,000
Nickel.....	(1891) 240,000	1,040,000	12,921,000
Cattle.....	1,100,000	9,081,000	11,579,000
Asbestos, raw.....	(1888) 228,000	491,000	10,615,000
Potatoes.....	(1876) 85,000	330,000	9,717,000
Laths, palings and pickets.....	144,000	532,000	9,508,000
Milk and cream, fresh	-	(1911) 1,720,000	8,741,000

TRADE BALANCES: From Confederation to 1927 -60 years- exports

from Canada to all countries have exceeded imports in twenty-four years, while imports have exceeded exports in thirty-six years. The net excess of exports over imports during the past sixty years totalled \$1,574,621,000. The largest excess of exports in a single fiscal year was in 1918, -a "war year", -amounting to \$622,637,000; while the largest excess of imports, amounting to \$294,139,000, occurred in 1913.

Since Confederation there has been an excess of exports to the United Kingdom in forty-eight years, while an excess of imports has occurred in twelve years. The net excess of exports to the United Kingdom during the whole 60 years has amounted to \$5,406,040,000. The largest excess of exports, amounting to \$779,749,000, was in the war year 1918, while the largest excess of imports, amounting to \$36,985,000, occurred in 1872. Since 1889, exports to the United Kingdom have exceeded imports in every year. Over eighty per cent of the great trade balance against the United Kingdom has been built

up since the outbreak of the war. About 55 per cent of this accumulated during the war period, and 45 per cent since.

During the past sixty years Canada's trade balance with the United States has been unfavourable in fifty-four years, while in only six years has it been favourable. Since Confederation the excess of imports from the United States over exports has amounted to the colossal sum of \$4,833,959,000. From 1882 to date Canada's trade balance with the United States has been "unfavourable" in every year. Canada had a favourable trade balance with the United States the first four years following Confederation and during the years 1880 and 1882. The largest excess of imports from the United States over exports, amounting to \$374,734,000, occurred during the war year, 1917; the largest excess of exports over imports, amounting to \$8,664,000, occurred in 1870.

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